

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present case in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-89 are currently pending. Claims 1-81 have been rejected. Claims 1, 3, 16-18, 20, 48-50, 59, 66, and 70 have been amended. Claims 15, 23-33, 51, 54, 72, and 76 have been cancelled. Claims 82-89 have been added. No new matter has been inserted. Support for the amendments of claims 1, 3, 16-18, 20, 48-50, 59, 66, and 70 and the newly added claims can be found throughout the specification as filed, including at least in the claims as originally filed.

Double Patenting

The Examiner rejected claims 1-81, under nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-30, of U.S. Patent No. 6,675,877. Without acquiescing to the rejection and solely for the purpose of advancing prosecution, a terminal disclaimer is attached and being filed with this amendment making the rejection with regards to these claims moot.

Claim Rejections

Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected Claims 3, 48-49, 66, and 73-75 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Without acquiescing to the rejection and solely for the purpose of advancing prosecution, claims 3, 48-49, 66, and 73-75 have either been amended or had their independent claim amended making the rejection with regards to these claims moot.

Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-14, 21-23, 26, 28-29, 33-50, 52-53, 55-71, and 77-81 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sandu et al., US 2003/0042007A1. Without acquiescing to the rejection and solely for the purpose of advancing prosecution, claims 1-14, 21-23, 26, 28-29, 33-50, 52-53, 55-71, and 77-81 have been amended, had their independent claim amended, or have been cancelled making the rejection with regards to these claims moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 15-20, 24-25, 30-32, 51, 54, 72 and 76 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Further, the Examiner noted that claims 73-75 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 USC § 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Without acquiescing to the rejection and solely for the purpose of advancing prosecution, claims 15, 54, and 72 have been rewritten into their base claims, claims 23, 24, 25, 30, 32, and 51, including their base and intervening claims, have been rewritten into the newly added claims 82-89, and claim 76 has been rewritten into independent claim 59 making all of the claims allowable. Allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application or if the Examiner should have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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